

Environmental

There are no known natural environmental features in this area. The human environment along NC 10 includes a church.

- **Cost Estimates**

The cost estimate for this recommendation is based on widening the existing roadway to NCDOT standards, adding an additional four foot shoulder for bicyclists, and mitigating for possible impacts to wetlands. The cost estimate for this recommended facility is \$4,251,100.

NC 18

- **Summary of Need**

There is a need to improve NC 18 within the planning area to provide a safer bicycle facility.

- **Summary of Purpose**

Improving the existing NC 18 should enable the roadway to accommodate automobiles and bicycles, while providing a safer facility for cyclists.

- **Roadway Conditions**

Existing Characteristics

NC 18 is a minor arterial on the Federal Functional Classification System. This roadway, which runs from north to south in the far northwestern portion of the planning area, links Catawba County and Cleveland County. The roadway is a two-lane undivided cross-section, approximately eighteen to twenty-four feet in width without shoulders with a speed limit of 55 mph.

Existing Conditions

2003 AADT volumes along NC 18 range from 2,300 vpd to 4,200 vpd. With a current practical capacity of 11,000 vpd, the existing ratio of traffic volume to practical capacity ranges from 0.2 to 0.38, meaning NC 18 is currently operating at levels satisfactory to users.

Projected Conditions

Little growth is anticipated in this area in the future. Traffic projected on NC 18 for the year 2030 ranges from 5,000 vpd to 5,500 vpd, which is well below the current practical capacity.

- **System Linkages**

Transportation Plans

NC 18 is designated as an on-road bicycle facility and an Other Major Thoroughfare on the CTP. The existing roadway will need to be widened to have a four-foot wide shoulder in order to achieve this type of facility in the future.

Modal Interrelationships

NC 18 connects to the NC Bike Route 6 (Piedmont Spur). NC Bike Route 6 serves as a 200-mile southern alternate to the Piedmont portion of the NC Bike Route 2 (Mountains to Sea). These two routes meet in Burke County and in Alamance County.